

Ask-An-Expert

This segment will allow Supervised Visitation Program grantees an opportunity to interact with other grantees on problem-solving exercises and ask subject matter experts questions about topics relevant to the Supervised Visitation Program grantees and their collaborative partners.



Documentation in Safe Havens Supervised Visitation and Exchange Cases

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Learning objectives

- Learn how documentation practices are impacted by program philosophy
- Establish goals for documentation.
- Explore the process of determining what to document and for what purpose.

Who is on the Call

- ▶ Supervised visitation/exchange center staff
- ▶ Advocacy
- ▶ Courts
- ▶ Gov't
- ▶ Other

Does your SV/SE program maintain documentation?

- ▶ Yes
- ▶ No

In The Beginning

- ▶ Supervised visitation generally occurred in the context of child protection
- ▶ Focused on keeping the child safe from further abuse and/or neglect
- ▶ Occurred as ONE component of an overall case plan
- ▶ Clear identification of issues
- ▶ Proactive and regular oversight

Supervised Visitation In The Context of Domestic Violence

- Grew out of a need and realization that separation does not = safety
- Applied the "child welfare model"
- Ambiguous goals
- Often occurred as ONLY component of overall "case plan"
- Little to no oversight
- Overreliance of behavior and information gathered in SV/SE setting

Parenting Vs. Safety

- Use of the child welfare model lead to:
- Centers and Courts focusing on parenting
 - Documentation focused on parenting
 - Philosophy that "we are only here for the children"

Context is Everything

Parenting Lens	Safety Lens
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Philosophical framework= provide skills, education•Focus on improvement of parenting skills•Demonstration of "appropriate" parenting skills = improvement and possible move to less restrictive parenting time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Philosophical framework= change in attitudes and belief system•Focus on the presence of battering tactics and safety for adult and child victim•Understanding that the lack of observable battering tactics does not equal safety and may simply be a reflection of the restrictive environment•QVW SVP is founded on Safety

Safe Havens Guiding Principles

- Equal Regard for the Safety of the Child(ren) and Adult Victims
- Respectful and Fair Interaction
- Incorporating and Understanding of DV
- Valuing Multiculturalism and Diversity
- Community Collaboration
- Advocacy for Child(ren) and Adult Victims

Do you have clear policies and procedures that guide your documentation practices?

- Yes
- No

What Becomes Part of the File?

- What is the reason for referral?
- Who is in need of protection?
- How does the information you document relate to the reason for referral?
- How will the information affect the safety of those in need of protection?

What Becomes Part of the File?

- Why would you write this down?
- What is the purpose?
- Why is it useful?
- Why do you need that information?
- Should the battering parent have access to the information?

Session note

Al and Jessica play with blocks. VP asks child about school and soccer practice. Child and VP discuss the upcoming Halloween holiday. VP asks child about her costume. VP states that child should ask CP if he can come to his house to see her costume. VP was redirected and asked to change the subject.

What is the Lens

- Parenting
- Safety

Session Note

During the 9/18/12 visit, VP violated a personal protection order. VP asked CH during a visit to pass information to CP which is a clear violation of both program policy and the protective order.

What is the Lens

- ▶ Parenting
- ▶ Safety

Benefits of Documentation

- ▶ Highlight Safety Issues
- ▶ Focus the attention of decision makers
- ▶ One piece of the “puzzle”

Questions

Contact Information

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Thank You For Attending

Thank you for attending today's segment. For more information, or to inquire about training or technical assistance, please visit safehavensonline.org or contact Michele Robinson, Program Manager with the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges at mrobinson@ncfci.org or (775) 784-6427.


